

Magazine Publishers of America



James R. Cregan
Executive Vice President
Government Affairs

February 14, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the Magazine Publishers of America (MPA), I am writing to express our support for the "Open Government Act." We deeply appreciate your commitment to ensuring that the workings of government remain open to public scrutiny. MPA is the premiere trade association for the consumer magazine industry with a long and distinguished record of activity in defense of the First Amendment. Our 240 domestic members publish more than 1,400 magazine titles, providing broad coverage of domestic and international news.

For almost 40 years, journalists and the American public have relied on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to get timely access to Federal agency records. However, since the Department of Justice issued a memorandum dated October 12, 2001, suggesting that the free flow of information under FOIA may be sharply curtailed, MPA has been extremely concerned about the availability of governmental information. MPA believes that the Open Government Act strikes the appropriate balance between promoting the free flow of information, which is essential to a democracy, and the government's legitimate interest in protecting security.

Thank you again for your commitment to protecting the First Amendment rights of news organizations to obtain and report as much information as possible to ensure that the American people can effectively evaluate the actions of their own government. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

James R. Cregan
Executive Vice President
Government Affairs

1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036
t: 202.296.7277
f: 202.296.0343
e: James.Cregan@magazine.org
www.magazine.org